

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/664,445

Examiner

Alvin A. Hunter

Applicant(s)

KUSUMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/10/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 6-21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


EUGENE KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Phouphanomketh Ditthavong on April 13, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1, 11, and 19 have been amend to clarify the invention.

--Claim 1, An iron head for a golf club including a head body made of a metal and having a hosel part, and a plate-like face body welded to the head body and made of a metallic material different from the metal of the head body, the plate-like face body having first through fourth peripheries arranged adjacent to toe, heel, top, and sole portions of said head body respectively, comprising:

a cavity portion between said plate-like face body and a back part of said head body, said cavity portion being defined so as to extend in said head body from a first position adjacent the toe portion of said head body to a second position adjacent to a heel portion of said head body, sand second position being remote from said secondary periphery in a direction toward said heel portion of said head body, said head body having a receipt portion thereof provided for receiving a rear face portion of said

Art Unit: 3711

plate-like face body adjacent to said second periphery, said receipt portion having a length equal to or less than one fourth of a length of said second periphery, said second periphery being positioned in a specified position wherein a golf ball is prevented from coming into direct contact with said second periphery even when said golf ball is sized such that said golf ball is in contact with both a surface of said hosel part and a surface of said plate-like face body apart from said second periphery simultaneously.—

--Claim 11. An iron head for a golf club including a head body made of a metal having a hosel part, and a plate-like face body welded to the head body and made of a metallic material different from the metal of the head body, comprising

a cavity portion between said plate-like face body and a back part of said head body, said cavity portion being defined so as to extend to a position remote from a periphery of said plate-like face body located on the side of a heel of said head body,

wherein said periphery is positioned such that a golf ball is prevented from contacting said periphery when a golf ball is sized such that said golf ball is in contact with both a surface of said hosel part and a surface of said plate-like face body simultaneously, and

wherein said cavity portion extending between a rear face of said plate-like face body and back part of said head body is formed to be fluidly communicated with shaft receipt hole provided in said hosel part of said iron head.—

--Claim 19. A golf club head comprising:

Art Unit: 3711

a head body made of metal;

a hosel part; and

a plate-like face body made of a metallic material different from the metal of the head body, wherein one periphery of the plate-like face body adjacent the hosel part is positioned such that a golf ball is prevented from contacting the one periphery when the golf ball is sized such that the golf ball is in contact with both a surface of the hosel part and a surface of the plate-like face body simultaneously, and the plate-like face body defines a cavity portion with the head body, the cavity portion extending beyond a vertical edge of the plate-like face body adjacent to the hosel part.--

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 and 6-21 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not show or suggest a club head having a connection between the face and body such that a golf ball does not come into contact with the connection when hitting the face and hosel simultaneously.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Art Unit: 3711

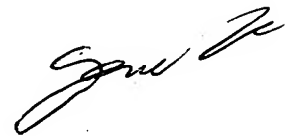
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin A. Hunter whose telephone number is (571) 272-4411. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AAH

Alvin A. Hunter, Jr.



EUGENE KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER